

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 30, 47–50, and 52–56 are currently pending in this application. Independent claim 30 is amended herein to incorporate “wherein said protected keratinous fiber has a dry tensile strength of at least about 950 J/m²; wherein said protected keratinous fiber has a wet tensile strength of at least about 275 J/m²; and wherein said protected keratinous fiber has an alpha structure of at least about 7.5 J/g,” as suggested by the Office. See, e.g., Office Action at 5–6. Dependent claim 50 is amended to recite “gulose” rather than “glucose,” merely to correct a typographical error. Each of those amendments have support in the originally filed specification, for instance, in at least Example 4 and Tables 13–14. No new matter is added herein.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 30, 47–50 and 52–56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,900,545 to Wisotzki et al. (*Wisotzki*). Office Action at 2. The nuances of the Office’s rejection can be found on pages 2–5 of the Office Action. Applicants continue to disagree with the Office’s position. However, Applicants have amended independent claim 30 to incorporate the limitations suggested by the Office in the present Action as distinguishing the present claims from the cited reference (e.g., tensile strength). See, e.g., *id.* at 5–6. Nothing in *Wisotzki* teaches or suggests those limitations. See also Applicants’ February 2, 2009, Response to Office Action dated October 1, 2008, at 2–4. As such, Applicants assert that this rejection is obviated and request its withdrawal.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation could be useful in resolving any outstanding issues, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Applicants’ undersigned representative at (404) 653-6553.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Amendment and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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